

Should the FCC or Congress take any steps to restrict satellite radio broadcasters such as XM Radio from delivering content such as local traffic and weather, it would be a huge disservice to the millions of customers of satellite radio. Living in a community that is now served by these local traffic reports, I can attest to what a great addition these reports have been to XM Radio and to my day. The local AM and FM radio stations here in Orlando appear to use some sort of canned traffic reports provided by some third party that are hardly ever up to date. Plus, these mostly inaccurate reports come at us at most every half hour. As one who travels the roads on a daily basis, I can say that every 30 minutes can be 29 minutes too late to prevent me and hundreds of other motorists from getting caught in a huge jam that could have been prevented with accurate, timely traffic reports. The new service from XM Radio provides these timely accurate reports that help motorists like myself get around trouble spots on our daily commute. Not only will a ban on these types of services that is currently being pushed by the NAB be detrimental to the commute of potentially hundreds of thousands of people, it also goes against the principle of competition and the free market economy that we cherish so much in this country. Competition from the satellite radio broadcasters should be a catalyst for terrestrially based radio stations to improve their quality, and thus benefit those that choose to still listen to their radio via the time tested methods of AM and FM. In conclusion, any move to ban the local traffic and weather reports being provided by XM Radio will only end up hurting all listeners and benefit only the pocketbooks of the terrestrial based radio stations.